

REPORT TO: Grants Advisory Committee

13 December 2018

LEAD OFFICER: Director, Health and Environmental Services

Grants to Voluntary Sector: Service Support Grants 2019/20-2021/22

Purpose

1. To determine the awards to be made for three-year programmes to the community and voluntary sector from the Service Support Grant fund for 2019/20 to 2021/22.
2. This is not a key decision. However, it is subject to Council's decision on budgets in February 2019.

Recommendations

3. That the Grants Advisory Committee recommends to the Lead Cabinet Member for Finance, that, subject to agreement by Council on budget, and subject to annual funding agreements with the organisations concerned, the following awards be made from the Service Support Grant Fund for 2019/20 to 2021/22:

Table 1

Applicants	Applied for pa £k	Year 1 £k	Year 2 £k	Year 3 £k	Total £k
Community Transport (indicative amount available £15,000 pa)					
Cambridge Dial-a-Ride	11.666	-	-	-	-
Care Network	7.616	7	7	7	21
Royston & District Community Transport	10	6	6	6	18
The Voluntary Network	7.288	3	3	3	9
Fit to Learn (indicative amount available £4,000 pa)					
Home-Start Royston & S Cambs/H-S Cambs	4	4	4	4	12
Independent Living (indicative amount available £20,000 pa)					
Arts & Minds	3	2.5	2.5	2.5	7.5
Camsight	8.063	-	-	-	-
Care Network	7.616	11.5	11.5	11.5	34.5
Cambridge Older People's Enterprise	5	2	2	2	6
Disability Cambridgeshire*	16.833	-	-	-	-
Disability Information Service Hunts (DISH)*	5.675	3	3	3	9
Headway*	20	-	-	-	-
Support for Parishes and Communities (indicative amount available £10,000 pa)					
Cambridge Council for Voluntary Service	10	10	10	10	30
Care Network	3.808	-	-	-	-
Welfare Advice – General (indicative amount available £80,000 pa)					
Consortium of Citizens Advice Bureaux**	80	80	80	80	240
Reach	10	-	-	-	-
Welfare Advice – Specialist (indicative amount available £5,000 pa)					
Consortium of Citizens Advice Bureaux**	5	5	5	5	15
Housing-related					
Cambridge Cyrenians	1.78	1.78	1.78	1.78	5.34
Cambridge Re-Use	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	5.4
Cambridge Women's Aid	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	25.5
Totals					
	227.645	146.08	146.08	146.08	438.24

* these organisations applied under more than one theme, and are reported under the most relevant theme only to avoid confusion (the amount applied for under each theme was not specified)

** proposed allocations of funding to the individual Citizens Advice Bureaux are detailed in Appendix 3

Reasons for Recommendations

- The priorities for this grant fund were recommended by the Grants Advisory Committee and approved by Cabinet on 5 September 2018. The programmes recommended for funding align with these priorities and will provide support to the Community and Voluntary Sector to deliver important services for residents of the district.

5. Applications were assessed independently by five officers using an agreed assessment framework. These officers then came together to combine assessments and agree recommendations.
6. The activities eligible for funding under each theme and the assessment framework for all themes other than Housing-related are provided in Appendices 1 and 2 respectively.
7. Summaries of all applications received, and combined scores for all themes other than Housing-related are provided in Appendices 3 and 4 respectively.
8. A summary of applications received under the Housing-related grants scheme is provided in Appendix 5.

Background

9. The current Service Support Grant scheme was set up in 2015 following a comprehensive review of Council grants. The scheme provides funding to support the voluntary and community sector to run programmes which deliver Council priorities. Current themes, eligible activities and levels of funding were set out in September 2015 and restated following review in July 2018.
10. The scheme provides three-year funding agreements. This allows funded organisations to make longer term plans and is in line with the Compact agreement between government and the voluntary and community sector.
11. The fund was open for applications for the eight-week period between 24 September and 16 November 2018. Applications were invited from current recipients and previous applicants of the fund. Further promotion of the scheme was through a press release, social media posts, the C CVS newsletter, the weekly bulletin for district councillors and the e-bulletin to parish councils.
12. Applications were independently assessed by five officers from Sustainable Communities & Partnerships, Revenues & Benefits and Housing Advice & Options teams.
13. Applicants will be notified of award decisions following call-in, and before the end of December. This will give at least three months' notice to affected organisations, allowing time to make necessary arrangements and in line with the Compact agreement.

Considerations

14. The Grants Advisory Committee's role is to consider and make recommendations to the Lead Cabinet Member responsible for grants, or Cabinet as appropriate, including, but not limited to:
 - (a) Review of the Council's grants schemes to ensure they reflect Council priorities.
 - (b) Design of any new or revised grants schemes, including consideration of criteria and guidance applicable in respect of each scheme.
 - (c) Consideration of applications made under the Council's grants schemes.
15. Seventeen applications have been considered. Fifteen of these were received by the deadline. A technical problem resulted in a delay in receiving an application emailed

to the Council by Homestart Royston on the day of the deadline. Royston & District Community Transport submitted an application late due to pressures of workload. All applications have been considered for funding.

16. As noted in para 21, only one application was received under the Fit to Learn theme. No application was received from Cambourne Church in partnership with Cambourne Children's Centre. Subsequent enquiries revealed that this was due to the opportunity being overlooked due to staff illness.
17. The recommendations are based on an assumption that grants are to be awarded under each heading. Taking each theme in turn,

Community Transport (indicative amount available £15,000 pa)

18. Applications totalling £36,570 pa were received from four organisations.
19. Care Network submitted a strong application for £7,616 pa under this theme to continue their work supporting and developing community car schemes in the district. This was part of a wider application for community development work including £7,616 pa under the Independent Living theme and £3,808 pa under the Supporting Parishes and Communities theme. Officers recommend that £7,000 pa is awarded under the Community Transport theme, no award is made under the Supporting Parishes and Communities theme, and £11,500 pa is awarded under the Independent Living theme (see para 25), totalling £18,500 pa.
20. Awards of £5,000 pa and £3,000 pa are recommended to Royston & District Community Transport (RDCT) and The Voluntary Network (TVN) respectively, reflecting value for money and number of residents likely to benefit from their programmes. The application from Cambridge Dial-a-Ride was weaker on value for money and evidence of need. Their proposal for a new minibus would need to be fully funded at a cost of £10,000 pa to be viable, and so, taking that into account, no award is recommended to Cambridge Dial-a-Ride.

Fit to Learn (£4,000 indicative amount available pa)

21. One application was received, for £4,000 pa from Home-Start Royston & South Cambridgeshire in partnership with Home-Start Cambridgeshire (HSRSC/HSC). Officers recommend this application is fully funded.

Independent Living (indicative amount available £20,000 pa)

22. Applications totalling £66,187 pa were received from seven organisations. Applications from Camsight for £8,063 pa and Headway for £20,000 pa scored well. However, officers decided not to recommend awards because these applications were for services currently funded by Cambridgeshire County Council, whose future funding decisions relating to these services are not yet clear. It was not felt appropriate that the Council step in given these circumstances.
23. Two applications are from advice and information services including home visits for people with disabilities. There were concerns about value for money and the sustainability of the business plan in the application from Disability Cambridgeshire. Whilst both applications offer services across the district, the application from the Disability Information Service Hunts (DISH) scored more highly. An award of £3,000 pa is recommended for DISH and no award for Disability Cambridgeshire.

24. Cambridgeshire Older People's Enterprise (COPE) applied for £5,000 to continue their support of older people including a free bi-monthly newsletter. Whilst the value of COPE's work representing and serving older people, there were some concerns about value for money. An award of £2,000 pa to COPE is recommended.
25. Care Network applied under this theme to continue their community development work in the district working and to develop an Open Arms support and training package for organisations. Their application was strong in all aspects and an award of £11,500 pa is recommended, which would bring total funding of Care Network to £18,500 pa.
26. Arts & Minds applied for £3,000 pa to continue their programme of arts workshops for mentally ill people. The application was strong in all aspects and an award of £2,500 is recommended.

Support for Parishes and Communities (indicative amount available £10,000)

27. Applications were received from Care Network for £3,808 pa and from Cambridge Community Voluntary Service (CCVS) for £10,000 pa. Officers recommend no award is made to Care Network under this theme (see para 19) and that the full £10,000 available is awarded to CCVS.

Welfare Advice General (indicative amount available £80,000 pa)

28. Applications were received from a consortium of four Citizens Advice Bureaux operating in South Cambridgeshire for £80,000 and a Haverhill based charity with the aim of lifting people out of poverty, Reach, for £10,000.
29. Officers were impressed with the application from Reach, but felt Reach were unable to compete with the more comprehensive programme of advice provided by the CABx, and recommend that the CABx consortium are awarded £80,000 pa.

Welfare Advice Specialist (indicative amount available £5,000 pa)

30. Four applications were received under this theme. None provided details of activities proposed specifically under this theme and so it was decided not to score them specifically for this theme, and instead to take into account scores from their applications under other themes. Officers recommend that the strongest applicant - the consortium of CABx – is awarded the full £5,000 pa available.

Housing-related Grants

31. These grants are managed by the Housing team. Previously, three organisations received funding via the three year program of Homeless Prevention Grant Awards. The 2018/19 awards are listed below.

Cambridge Cyrenians	£1763
Cambridge ReUse	£1556
Cambridge Women's Aid	£8402

32. The application process was advertised via the Council's website and all three organisations submitted repeat applications as part of the 2019/20 bidding process. No applications were received from other organisations.

33. Amounts requested were similar to previous requests, although all three organisations requested uplifts. The largest of these was from Cambridge Re-Use to cover the increased running costs of the furniture van.
34. Historically, an uplift in the amount awarded to each organisation has been applied each year to allow for inflation and other increases in running costs. This tends to be within an envelope of £300-£400 per year. Approving all three grant applications at the requested amount represents an increase of £359 (as a comparator, an inflationary uplift of 2.7% would be £317). The total amount requested is within the typical uplift envelope and can be funded via the Homeless Prevention Budget, of which the Homeless Prevention Grant awards form part. All three organisations have a history of delivery the stated activities and provide regular monitoring information.
35. The panel recommendation is therefore to approve all three applications at the requested amount:

Cambridge Cyrenians	£1780
Cambridge Re-Use	£1800
Cambridge Women's Aid	£8500

Options

36. The Grants Advisory Committee may consider all applications for funding that are set out in Appendix 3 of this report and recommend to the Lead Cabinet Member to
- (a) award the amount of funding requested
 - (b) award an alternative amount of funding, including zero funding, or
 - (c) defer a decision if further information is required from grant applicants.
37. All awards would be subject to agreement of the budget by Council in February, and subject also to agreement of specific details of services to be delivered each year, with the organisations concerned.

Implications

38. In the writing of this report, taking into account financial, legal, staffing, risk management, equality and diversity, climate change, community safety and any other key issues, the following implications have been considered: -

Financial

39. The awards recommended are within the Council's proposed budget for 2019/20. Agreements with grant recipients will make clear that funding in Year 1 is subject to confirmation of the Council's budget in February 2019, and that funding in Years 2 and 3 is subject to the continued availability of funds and confirmation of annual budgets by Council.

Legal

40. Agreements with grant recipients will allow variation or discontinuation of the grant in specified circumstances.

Consultation responses

41. The Deputy Leader and lead Cabinet Members for Customer Service and Business Improvement, for Housing and Health and Environmental Services have been consulted. Their comments were not available at the time of publication of this report and will be reported at the meeting.

Effect on Strategic Aims

42. Ensure that South Cambridgeshire continues to offer an outstanding quality of life for our residents: the grant programmes promote a good quality of life for all residents, assisting directly or indirectly through voluntary organisations schemes which help overcome the challenges faced by residents imposed by age, infirmity, disability, low income or rurality.

Background Papers

Where [the Local Authorities \(Executive Arrangements\) \(Meetings and Access to Information\) \(England\) Regulations 2012](#) require documents to be open to inspection by members of the public, they must be available for inspection: -

- (a) at all reasonable hours at the offices of South Cambridgeshire District Council;
- (b) on the Council's website; and
- (c) in the case of documents to be available for inspection pursuant to regulation 15, on payment of a reasonable fee required by the Council by the person seeking to inspect the documents at the offices of South Cambridgeshire District Council.

Grants Advisory Committee Meeting, 27 July 2018

<http://scambs.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1096&MId=7342&Ver=4>

Cabinet, 5 September 2018

<http://scambs.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=293&MId=7344&Ver=4>

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